

# The Charlotte Post

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## Workplace magnets knocked

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board member George Dunlap said the system's policy on integrating schools is a good one, but it has not been followed properly.

The board voted Monday to reaffirm the policy, which calls for using mid-point schools, neighborhood schools in naturally integrated areas and magnet schools, in that order, to maintain integration.

But during those discussions, Dunlap took issue with a plan to make schools in the east-side education village "workplace" magnets.

That plan means parents working in the University City area businesses near UNC Charlotte would get priority in placing their children at the school.

"I question whether we should have a workplace magnet at the new school," Dunlap said.

He said new schools are naturally attractive to parents because they already have the best resources. Adding the workplace magnet would add to the resources, such as the planned-business partnerships.

Doing so would affect the ability of other schools such as Derita and Winding Springs to maintain adequate racial balances.

Those naturally integrated schools often get the African American students bused out of the black communities where most magnet schools are set up now, making them more predominantly black, Dunlap said in an interview earlier.

"White parents have a problem with schools that are predominantly black," he said.

Another example is Cochrane Middle School, which received some 200 students formerly assigned to J.T. Williams, when that school was made a magnet. Cochrane was already nearly 70 percent black. Now school officials are talking about making Cochrane a magnet,

See **WORKPLACE** page 2A

## Brookside residents moved from 'imminent hazard'

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Brookside rest home was supposed to have turned the corner.

The northwest Charlotte facility brought on new management and new safeguards last year after allegations of patient neglect. The changes were supposed to make Brookside, previously licensed as Dogwood Manor, a more livable place for its residents. It wasn't for long.

Last week, the N.C. Division of Facility Services shut down Brookside, located at 1700 N. I-85 Service Road, by issuing a summary suspension of its license.

With its license suspended, Brookside can't admit new residents, and

Mecklenburg County officials moved this week to relocate its 89 patients. Brookside's ownership group, which include Charlotte optometrist and former Mecklenburg County commissioner candidate Raleigh Bynum, have until Feb. 3 to appeal the suspension before an administrative law judge. Bynum couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday.

"Twenty-eight placements were made (Monday) and 25 (Tuesday)," Mecklenburg

spokesman John McGillicuddy said. "The remainder will be placed as soon as possible."

Brookside is the first Mecklenburg County rest home to be closed by the state.

Attempts to secure a restraining order against the state by Brookside were denied Tuesday, and Dr. Ronald Levine, N.C.'s public health director, issued an order declaring the facility an imminent health hazard. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority has

assumed oversight of Brookside until residents are placed in other facilities.

"It'll be challenging to quickly place 89 residents," said John Butler, director of Mecklenburg's Services for Adults Division. "We'll seek placements in Mecklenburg County first and then work our way outside the county as available slots are filled."

Brookside's suspension came after a Jan. 3 surprise visit by

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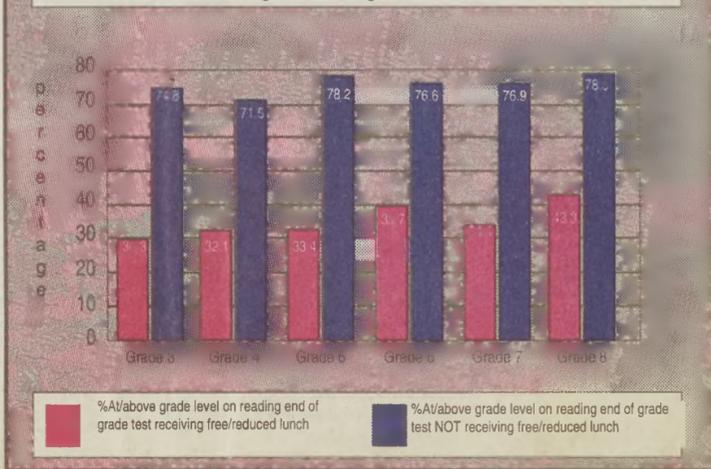
Dunlap



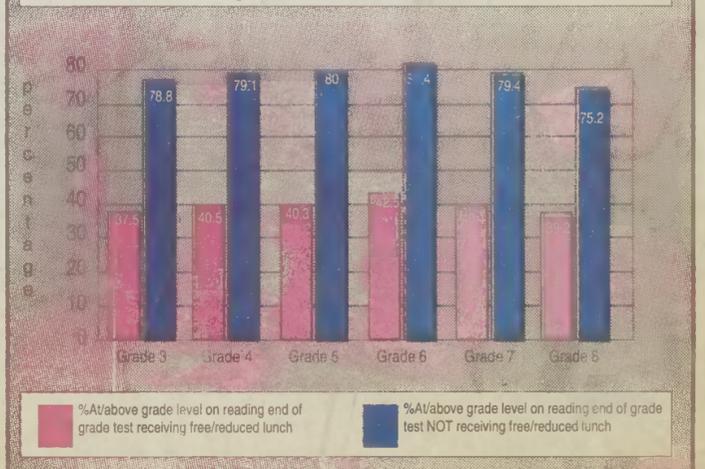
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### CHARLOTTE POST SPECIAL REPORT

Percentage of Charlotte-Mecklenburg students scoring at/above grade level on end of grade reading test for 1994-1995



Percentage of Charlotte-Mecklenburg students scoring at/above grade level on end of grade mathematics test for 1994-1995



## Figures show life is tough for children

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The child was about 9 years old. He was one of 10 children and a total of 16 people lived in the small house in north Charlotte off Statesville Road. In the small park near his home, drug dealers plied their trade. That's all the life he knew and believed that one day he too would take his place among the drug dealers

Abuse and neglect continue to increase, but some programs work for families.

in the park. He was not doing well in school.

This story by Vivian Brown, director of Project Hope, is just one of the many horror stories those who work with children in Mecklenburg County come across regularly.

In this youngster's case, the intense intervention by the teen pregnancy prevention

program turned his nightmares into dreams, perhaps saving his life.

Children's Defense Fund founder and president Marian Wright Edelman, who will speak in Charlotte next month, has heard similar stories around the country.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Foundation has

tapped Edelman as featured speaker at its annual meeting Feb. 7.

Asking Edelman to speak is like asking for a dose of castor oil.

You won't like the way it feels going down, but you know it's what you need.

Edelman is one of the world's most outspoken champions of children everywhere.

If the results of 1995 reports on the state of children in Mecklenburg County are any indication, the locals will get a

healthy dose of Edelman's elixir. She's a regular contributor to The Post's editorial pages.

In the introduction of the Children's Defense Fund's 1995 yearbook, Edelman pours out the tonic on behalf of those young people buffeted by crime in their homes and communities, neglected by caregivers at home and school, and then blamed for their miserable conditions.

See **CHILDREN** page 2A

## N.C. NAACP election results challenged, decision expected soon

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

State NAACP officials are expecting to hear this week whether the organization's October election will have to be held over.

At the state convention, a newly new slate of officers was elected, save for president Kelly Alexander and first vice president Melvin Alston of

Greensboro.

In Valerie Woodard, long a critic of Alexander, beat Kermit Waddell for second vice president at the state level. Henry Pickett, president of the Raleigh/Apex chapter, was elected third vice president.

Gina Pettis-Dean of Charlotte was elected youth advisor, beating Mary Reid.

The vote totals were close,

with about 184 delegates casting ballots and only 8-10 votes difference between winners and losers. For example, Woodard beat Waddell 96-88 and Z. Ann Hoyle of Hickory beat longtime incumbent treasurer James Florence 96-83.

Winners in the election called it "significant."

Pickett said the new slate of officers wants to push the state organization in a new

direction. "We were not part of a national trend," Pickett said. "These were just people at the state level who feel perhaps we need to go in some other directions. That was the reason they voted in the people they voted in."

Hoyle, the former third vice president, agreed.

"Sometimes when we do not make changes, people possess positions, which in turn

equals possession of the organization," Hoyle said. "It is not their fault. It is the fault of those around them who don't make the commitment to make the proper changes to keep life in the organization."

However, complaints about how the election was run have prompted an investigation by the national NAACP. And

See **NAACP** page 3A

## Barnhill, quiet worker, dies

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Former N.C. Rep. Howard Barnhill's reputation as a quiet politician underlay his commitment to help constituents.

Mr. Barnhill, who represented northwest Charlotte in the General Assembly for 10 years and

was a champion of health-care issues in North Carolina, died Jan. 6 in Charlotte at age 79.

Anna Hood, chairperson of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus, worked with Mr. Barnhill on

his last campaign in 1992. She said his kind manner was apparent in public as well as private life.

"I've known Mr. Barnhill to be interested in people, and a genuine person," Hood said. "He always had something good to say about someone. He was quiet in his own way, but he helped a lot of people in his own way."

Mr. Barnhill left the House of Representatives in 1994 after suffering a stroke. His health had steadily declined by the time of his death.

Mr. Barnhill's background was in health services: he began a health program in Charlotte's Brooklyn community in the 1950s and he taught public health at UNC-Chapel Hill

"He surrounded himself with health-related issues and helping people get better health care," Hood said.

Mr. Barnhill, who gained a reputation as low-key politician, shunned the spotlight. But unassuming manner didn't keep him from working in the interests of voters who sent him to Raleigh for five terms.

"I think it was the way he carried himself and his working behind the scenes to help people," Hood said.

Mr. Barnhill's funeral is Friday at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church-West. Visitation will be 12-1 p.m. at the church. Interment will be in the Oaklawn Cemetery.

Alexander Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Sleigh ride anyone?



PHOTO: JAMES BROWN

Jerry Brownlee Sr. of Charlotte gives Jerry Brownlee Jr. and Rayshone Nance a ride on a makeshift plastic sleigh Monday. The blizzard of 1996 dumped unexpected snow on Charlotte, which was just fine with school kids. Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools are expected to re-open Friday.

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